REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS
Planning Year Profile
Grant Period: 2019-2024

IMPROVING OUTCOMES OF GEORGIA'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY SUBSTANCE ABUSE: STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES AND FAMILY TREATMENT COURTS

LEAD AGENCY: Georgia State University Research Foundation, Inc.
LOCATION: Atlanta, GA
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REGION: 4
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVED: GA-005

TARGET SERVICE AREA: Hall, Dawson, Chatham, Clarke, Oconee, Baldwin, Jones, Putnam, Greene, Morgan, Wilkinson, Hancock, and Jasper Counties

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Georgia State University Research Foundation, Inc., proposes to develop a training and technical assistance package in family treatment courts (FTCs) in four judicial circuits (Hall, Ocmulgee, Chatham, and Athens-Clarke) to help Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) workers and managers implement a newly state mandated substance use screening protocol. The work is proposed to include an integration of the screening tool into the Georgia child welfare data system and a dashboard that can be used for data-based monitoring and quality improvement. The grantee will augment behavioral health service provision at each family treatment court to include evidence-based practices (EBPs) in the areas of parenting (SafeCare, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)) and/or adult and child trauma (Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Seeking Safety) to promote positive parent and child outcomes, with training and coaching for Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities service providers.

TARGET POPULATION: Families referred by the Georgia Department of Family and Children’s Service with substantiated maltreatment and suspected substance use disorder in the four judicial circuits.

PROJECTED UMBERS SERVED: A total of 240 parents will be enrolled across the intervention and comparison groups during the grant period.

MAJOR PROGRAM GOALS

GOAL 1: Increase screening, referral, and enrollment of Department of Family and Children Services involved clients in Georgia’s family treatment courts.

GOAL 2: Implement an evidence-based practice in family treatment courts.

GOAL 3: Conduct a rigorous evaluation.
KEY PROGRAM SERVICES

- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- Seeking Safety
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- SafeCare

EXISTING OR PROPOSED PARTNERS

- Georgia Division of Family and Children Services
- Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Juvenile Courts serving target counties
- Family Treatment Courts serving target counties
- Council of Accountability
- Georgia State University
- Florida Atlantic University
- Advanced Outcomes Consulting Group

EVALUATION DESIGN

The grantee’s local evaluation has proposed two components: an impact study and process study. The grantee is also participating in the RPG cross-site evaluation studies of family and child outcomes, program implementation, and collaboration among RPG grantees and partners.

IMPACT STUDY DESIGN

The grantee proposes to use two quasi-experimental design studies (QEDs) to examine the impact of RPG services among families referred to FTCs by DFCS due to family substance use issues. The studies propose to use data from eight FTCs; four will provide RPG services (intervention courts) and four will continue usual care (control courts). The intervention FTCs will receive training and technical assistance to help DFCS workers and managers implement a new screening and referral protocol, including a data dashboard for monitoring and quality improvement. Each intervention court will also implement select EBPs to address parenting and/or adult and child trauma.

The first QED proposes to examine impacts on the number of screenings, positive identifications of substance use issues, and referrals and enrollments in FTC among all families screening positive for substance use and referred to a study FTC. The study also proposes to compare permanency and safety outcomes for families screening positive for substance use and enrolling versus not enrolling in FTC. The second QED proposes to address the impact of the EBPs and compare families from the intervention courts to families from the control courts. It will include 240 families, with 120 from intervention courts and 120 from control courts. The grantee proposes to examine impacts in the following domains: permanency, safety, child well-being, family functioning, and recovery.

PROCESS STUDY DESIGN

In the process study, the grantee proposes to unpack the screening and referral process used by the FTCs and staff experiences with those processes, barriers and facilitators to screenings and referrals, time trends in screenings and referrals, and possible underlying reasons for those trends.

This grantee profile is supported by the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families Children’s Bureau, under contract HHSS270201700001C. This content represents the work of The Center for Children and Family Futures, and does not reflect the opinions of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families.